

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



Children's Residential Care Update

JUNE 2007

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE UPDATE

This is our second *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2007. Children's Residential Care homes are likely to be busy with children doing outdoor summer activities in the warmer weather. We are in the fifteenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed about licensing programs and services. This issue contains regulatory updates, ticklers about upcoming conferences, and other program news. Your support in sharing this Update with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR

We are pleased to report that John A. Wagner is the new Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The Governor announced his appointment on April 24, 2007. Mr. Wagner has extensive experience in senior policymaking and leadership roles in the field of human services. Most recently, he served as Assistant Secretary for Children, Youth and Families for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. As Commissioner for the Massachusetts' Department of Transitional Assistance, he led one of that state's largest agencies and oversaw the administration of cash assistance, shelter, and food programs serving low-income residents. Mr. Wagner's wealth of experience in the human services arena speaks to his enduring commitment to support strong, well-functioning families; to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children; and to support the ability of vulnerable populations to live in the community.

We also wish to thank Cliff Allenby for his service as Interim Director of CDSS during the past 18 months. Mr. Allenby has had a long and distinguished career in public service, having previously served in numerous capacities including Director of the Department of Developmental Services, Interim Director of the Department of General Services, chief legislative representative for Los Angeles County, and Secretary of the then Health and Welfare Agency. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

PERMANENT CRISIS NURSERIES REGULATIONS COMING

Emergency regulations creating a new Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) category called Crisis Nurseries (CN) that were readopted by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) are in the final stages of formal rulemaking to become permanent regulations. The regulations were submitted to OAL on June 25, 2007 and are projected to become effective August 6, 2007.

CN regulations implement Senate Bill (SB) 855, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2004. Current law defines CNs as facilities that provide short-term, 24-hour non-medical residential care and supervision for children under six years of age who are voluntarily placed in the nursery for up to 30 days by their parents/guardians due to a family crisis or stressful situation. Children may also temporarily be placed in CNs by county child welfare services agencies for no more than 14 days.

If you have questions about these proposed CN regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312. For copies of the proposed CN regulations, please visit the Office of Regulations Development (ORD) website at: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/default.htm or contact ORD at (916) 657-2586. Please note that depending on the version of software that you are currently using, it might be necessary to press your control key to activate the hyperlinks in this document.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS FOR FOSTER YOUTH REGULATIONS TO BEGIN THE FORMAL RULEMAKING PROCESS

Proposed "Family Connections for Foster Youth" regulations have been drafted and are beginning the regulation process. These regulations will implement AB 458, Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003, AB 1412, Chapter 640, Statutes of 2005, and AB 2661, Chapter 643, Statutes of 2004. These regulations support family connections for foster youth, outline new foster care training requirements, and require foster family agencies to conduct reference checks for new certified family home applicants.

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312. In the near future, the proposed regulations will be available for viewing at the ORD website: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/Regulation_366.htm. We will report in future updates about the date, time and location of the public hearing. The public hearing information will also be available on the ORD website.

HEAT RELATED INFORMATION

The summer months can bring several days of intense heat which can be dangerous to vulnerable populations in our community care facilities. To help prevent heat related illness, CCLD has developed tips for providers, families, and individuals to use to prepare for the summer heat. You can access this information on our website at the following address: http://cclld.ca.gov/OtherHealt_2494.htm

2007 FOSTER FAMILY HOMES COUNTY LICENSING STAFF ACADEMIES

The CCLD, Statewide Foster Family Homes (FFH) County Liaison Program will offer two additional FFH County Academies on July 31 and August 1-3, 2007 in Sacramento County and Sept 10-14, 2007 in Napa County. These Academies are specifically designed for new county FFH licensing staff.

Each FFH County Academy participant will be required to attend the four days of training in Sacramento or Napa County. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants. Once we receive your county's registration request, a County Liaison will provide the exact site address when your registration is confirmed. For any additional information, please contact your county liaison directly or County Liaison Carmen Rollins at (909) 931-5705.

UPCOMING GROUP HOME AND FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY CONFERENCES

October 2007 Annual Statewide Group Home Conference: "Footsteps toward Independence"

This 2007 Group Home (GH) training conference, co-hosted by CCLD and The California Alliance of Child and Family Services will be held October 11-12, 2007 in Woodland Hills, California. Cost for the conference will be \$140.00 per person or \$155.00 for late/at the door registration. The planning committee is currently working on the agenda, topics, and speakers. For more information about this event, please contact Licensing Program Manager Kellee Coleman at (818) 596-4334 or Licensing Program Manager Peter Zertuche at (310) 568-1807.

November 2007 Annual Statewide Foster Family Agency Conference

The 2007 Foster Family Agencies (FFA) conference, co-hosted by CCLD Central California Children's Residential Regional Office and The California Alliance of Child and Family Services, will be held at the Embassy Suites on November 7-8, 2007 in South San Francisco, California. The planning committee is currently working on the agenda, topics, and speakers. Invitation letters and registration information will be mailed out in the near future. For more information about this event, please contact Licensing Program Manager Duane Matsubara at (559) 243-8080.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

Children's Residential Policy Unit staff welcome Fernando Sandoval as their new manager. Fernando was most recently with the Adult Care Policy and Systems Unit. He has prior experience in the Office of Regulations Development, Legislative Counsel Bureau, and the Children's Residential Policy Unit. Fernando is "fired up" to be on board and looks forward to working with all of you. He may be reached at (916) 445-2154. Congratulations Fernando!

NEW LOCATION FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA REGIONAL OFFICE

The Central California Children's Residential Program Regional Office has recently moved to their new location at the following address:

2580 North First Street, Suite 350, M.S. 29-07
San Jose, CA 95131
(408) 324-2112 FAX (408) 324-2133

A current list of CCLD Children's Residential Program Offices can be obtained at the following website address: http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/res/pdf/childres_rolist.pdf

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the CCLD home page at www.ccl.d.ca.gov, please click on the link on the left side of the page that is titled, "Licensing Overview." Then click on the first bullet that says, "Number of State Licensed Facilities, by County." Scroll to the end of the document for the statewide totals. Further breakouts by category and location are also available. Please contact Suzann Paolini, Central Operations Branch, at (916) 324-4031 for assistance. Directories can also be obtained from your local Children's Residential Program licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about items included in this *Children's Residential Care Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Barbara Rooney, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch (TAPB) at (916) 657-2346. Also, please visit our CCLD website at www.ccl.d.ca.gov to obtain copies of Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed by Jeff Hiratsuka for Jo Frederick)
JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures